

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 9 are amended. Claim 3 is cancelled. Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1, 2, and 4-12 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-6 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Slingo (US 6,378,225). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Amended claim 1 recites:

“A nozzle comprising an air outlet aperture across which there are situated at least two electrically isolated thermal-capacitance elements configured to moderate air temperature of air exhausted through the nozzle by absorption, retention and re-radiation of thermal energy contained in the air exhausted through the nozzle, wherein said elements are disposed in a parallel spaced-apart interrelationship.”

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion that the Slingo reference anticipates the present invention because Slingo does not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements as claimed. As discussed below, Slingo fails to disclose, teach or suggest a pair of electrically isolated thermal-capacitance elements disposed in a parallel spaced-apart interrelationship. Moreover, Slingo fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a pair of electrically isolated thermal-capacitance elements that are mounted in a nozzle. Consequently, the Examiner's rejection is improper.

Slingo teaches a hair dryer that employs a ceramic radiator 100 which is tubular and mounted within an elongate body 20 between the fan 40 and the outlet 28. Ceramic radiator 100 is suspended within the elongate coil 62, which is deployed around the ceramic radiator (See col. 2, lines 39-44, and Figure 2). Thus, ceramic radiator 100 is directly heated by the elongate coil 62. Moreover, the reference disclosure and the figures make clear that the ceramic radiator is mounted within the body of the hair dryer (the elongate body 20).

Contrary to the assertions of the Examiner, Slingo does not disclose, teach, or suggest a pair of thermal capacitance elements that are disposed in a

parallel spaced-apart interrelationship. Moreover, Slingo does not disclose, teach, or suggest a ceramic radiator that is mounted in a nozzle. Because Slingo fails to disclose, teach, or suggest every element of the invention as claimed, amended claim 1 cannot be properly rejected as anticipated or obvious. Further, claims 2-6 and 10 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons set forth in support of amended claim 1.

Claims 9, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Chan (US 5,628,123). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Amended claim 9 recites, "A nozzle comprising an air outlet aperture across which there are situated at least one electrically isolated thermal-capacitance element configured to moderate air temperature of air exhausted through the nozzle by absorption, retention and re-radiation of thermal energy contained in the air exhausted through the nozzle, said nozzle defining a central axis through said outlet aperture and comb teeth projecting from said nozzle in a generally parallel orientation to said central axis."

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion that the Chan reference anticipates the present invention because Chan does not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements as claimed. As discussed below, Chan fails to disclose, teach or suggest at least a pair of electrically isolated thermal-capacitance elements disposed in a parallel spaced-apart interrelationship. Consequently, the Examiner's rejection is improper.

Chan teaches an embodiment of an infra-red radiation heater 20 that employs a bulb 21 mounted to a base unit and surrounded by an aluminum reflector 23. The bulb 21 is protected by from damage via sheet 24. Base unit 22 is provided with an electrical connection terminal 25 and leads 28 to connect to bulb 21.

Contrary to the assertions of the Examiner, Chan does not disclose, teach, or suggest a pair of electrically isolated thermal capacitance elements that are disposed in a parallel spaced-apart interrelationship. While Chan teaches a hair dryer attachment that functions as a radiation heater, Chan also teaches a bulb

that is electrically connected to a power source. Thus it is clear that Chan fails to disclose the pair of electrically isolated thermal capacitance elements required by amended claim 9. As a result, Chan fails to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements of the present invention. Because Chan does not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements of the present invention as claimed, amended claim 9 cannot be properly rejected as anticipated or obvious. Further, claim 11 and 12 depend from claim 9 and are patentable for at least the same reasons set forth in support of claim 9.

In sum, amended claim 1 and claim 9 clearly indicate that the present invention requires the presence of at least a pair of electrically isolated thermal capacitance elements disposed in a parallel spaced-apart interrelationship and are configured to moderate air temperature of air exhausted through the nozzle.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Slingo in view of Chan. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

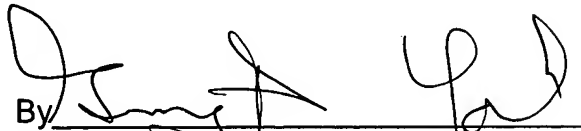
As discussed above, the Slingo reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements of the present invention as claimed. And while the Chan reference may disclose a hair dryer attachment, the Chan reference does not disclose the features of the present invention that are missing from the Slingo reference. Specifically, the combination of references fail to disclose, teach, or suggest a pair of electrically isolated thermal capacitance elements disposed in a parallel spaced-apart interrelationship. Because the combination of references fail to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements of the present invention as claimed, the combination does not render the present invention obvious.

Because the combination of references fail to teach, disclose or suggest all of the elements of the present invention as claimed and there is no motivation to combine the reference invention to arrive at the invention of the present application, the Examiner's obviousness rejection should be withdrawn.

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For all the foregoing reasons, allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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